Shri Kanti Biswas, Education Minister, West Bengal to suggest measures for enhancing the autonomy of higher education institutions. The changes/ amendments effected to the Memorandums of Association (MoA) of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology, Longowal have been reversed and their autonomy restored.

DTH operation through foreign owned satellites

1078. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on use of foreign owned satellites for beaming down programme directly for DTH operations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such permission would be given if safeguards like traffic monitoring and inspections of equipments are also built in the foreign satellite system to be hired by the DTH operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Accessibility to sex through DTH

†1079. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sex would be easily accessible in the houses through DTH and at some places it is happening;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Concerns have been expressed in various quarters about the possible misuse of DTH service for viewing pornographic channels;.

(b) and (c) This issue was examined in the month of August, 2004. The detailed enquiries revealed that some pornographic channels were available

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in C band in India and therefore, a DTH Set Top Box, which receives signals in KU band, cannot be used for viewing pornographic channels available in C band unless the DTH service provider transmits these channels in its bouquet or alternatively the subscriber access the relevant CAM card and installs a huge C band receiving dish antenna. Further, the premises of M/s ASC Enterprises, the sole DTH licensee, were also inspected by a team deputed by this Ministry. It was observed that none of the pornographic channels were included in their DTH bouquet.

The DTH license conditions make it obligatory on the DTH licensee to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement codes and ensure that its facilities are not used for transmitting any objectionable or obscene content, messages or communication inconsistent with the laws of India. However, the Ministry is keeping a watch on this and related issues.

Policy on Print Media

1080. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet has decided to set up a Group of Ministers to study not only violations but also policy paradigm of print media in view of the emerging scenario and decisions taken by previous Government in 2002;

(b) if so, whether this group would consider amendments in the Press and Registration of Books Act for allowing Government to screen newspaper titles before being cleared by the Registrar of newspapers of India;

(c) if so, whether the panel has submitted its report to Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when its recommendations are likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) the Cabinet, while considering the Amendment